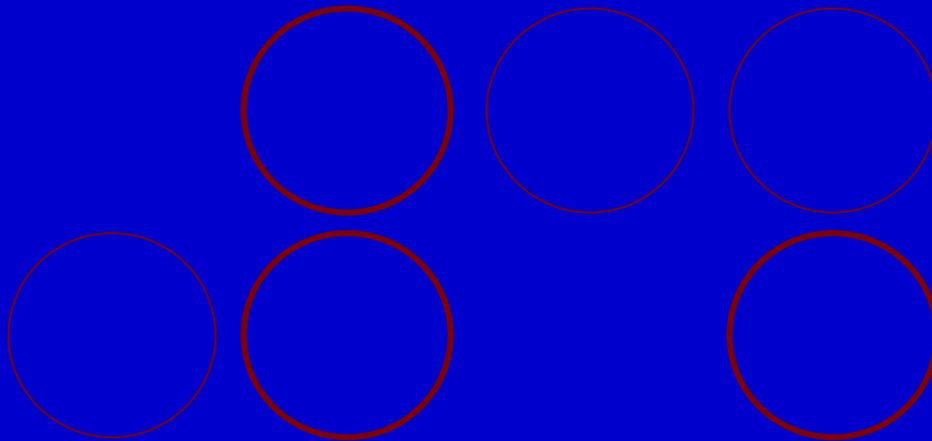




Building Partnerships Through Study Circles



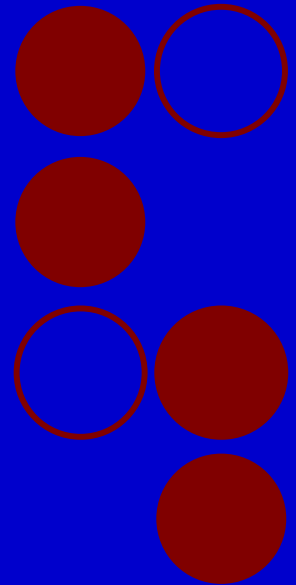
Presented by:

Diane Vibhakar & Heather Gage



Why engage the public?

- People will support what they help create.
- Citizens care about their communities and want to make them better
- People from all walks of life and segments of society have something to contribute
- Diversity of opinions result in better solutions.
- When people develop trust and relationships, new ideas, and approaches emerge.

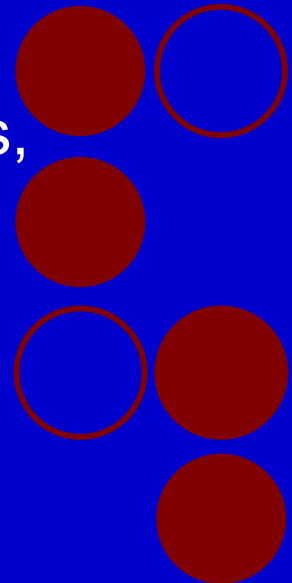




What do we do?



- We provide each community with a variety of free trainings that assist them in using the study circles model. The trainings are for coordinators, work groups, recorders and facilitators.
- Each person who participates in training or as participants in a study circle will receive a discussion materials.
- The project also provides ongoing technical support throughout the community's study circle process.



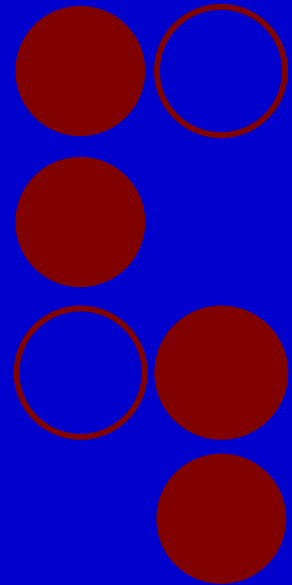


Study Circles

Guiding Principles



- Inclusion
- Diversity
- Face to Face Dialogue
- Dialogue to Action

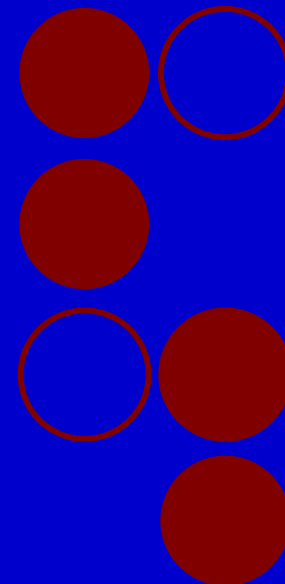




A Study Circle ...



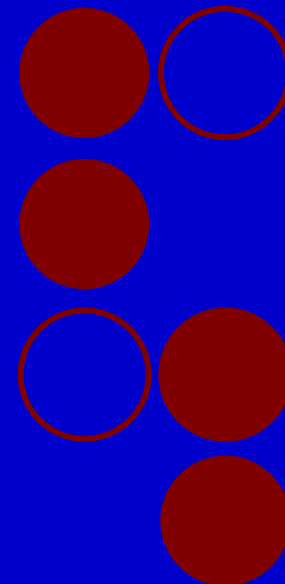
- is a small, diverse group of 8-12 participants.
- meets regularly over a period of time to address a critical issue in a democratic and collaborative way.
- sets its own ground rules for a respectful, productive discussion.
- does not require consensus, but uncovers areas of agreement and common concern.
- is facilitated and by someone who does not give his or her own opinions on the issue, but helps create a balanced, honest, productive discussion.

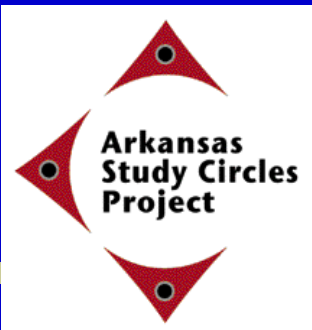




A Study Circle Program ...

- is initiated and organized by a diverse coalition of people that reflects the whole community.
- can have several individual Study Circles taking place on the same issue, at the same time.
- includes a large number of participants from all walks of life.
- uses easy-to-use, nonpartisan discussion material.
- results in specific opportunities to move to action when the Study Circles conclude.





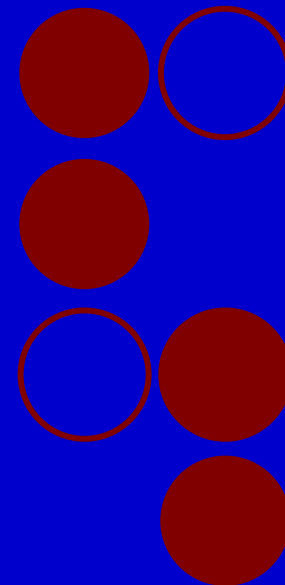
Building Partnerships to Support Early Learning for Children

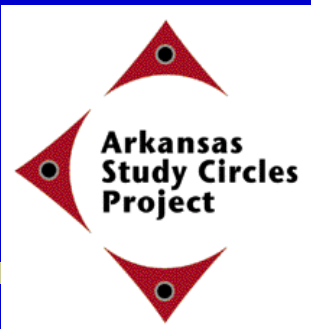
Session 1: What Does Early Learning Mean to Each of Us?

- Explores early learning from a personal perspective
- Explores research on early learning
- Explores five critical areas of School Readiness

Session 2: Why Are So Many Children Starting School Without the Attitudes and Abilities They Need to Do Their Best?

- Explores statistical information on children in Arkansas
- Explores what it means to be “ready for school”
- Explores different views on what keeps children from developing the attitudes and abilities they need to be eager and ready to do their best when they start school

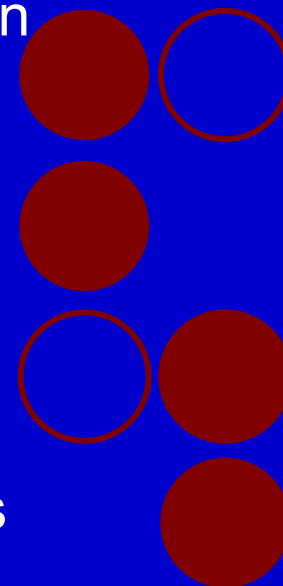




Building Partnerships to Support Early Learning for Children

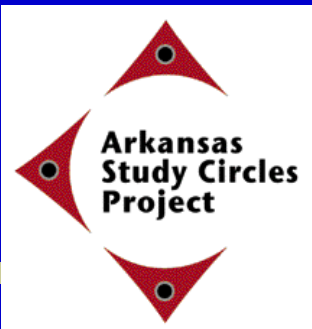
Session 3: Picture a Community That Helps All Children Start School Eager and Ready to Do Their Best

- Explores what quality early care and education looks like
- Explores how a community would look if everyone was involved in helping all children develop the attitudes and abilities they need to get ready for school



Session 4: Making a Difference: What Specific Actions Do We Want to Take?

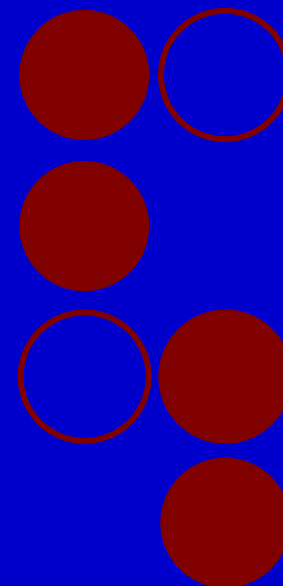
- Explores and prioritizes specific action ideas for developing a community that helps all children start school eager and ready to do their best



Outcomes



- New learning (participants see a more complete picture of the issue and of others in the community).
- New relationships & networks
- New ownership of the issue
- New leadership
- New collaborations
- New policies
- New processes for community problem-solving





THANK YOU!

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